



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Inventor**            David DIDUCH et al.            **Examiner:**            Glenn K. DAWSON  
**Serial No.:**        10/084,283                            **Confirmation No.**    7097  
**Filed:**             February 26, 2002                   **Group Art Unit:**    3731  
**Title:**            SUPERELASTIC SUTURE PASSING DEVICES AND METHODS

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced application, please amend the claims as follows:

Please add new claims 49-51 as follows.